Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended):   A white balance correcting device for correcting white balance of a picked-up image, comprising:

mean value calculating part which calculates ~~means for dividing an image picking up plane into a plurality of blocks and calculating~~ a mean value of brightness and mean values of color signals from video signals obtained in each of ~~the~~ a plurality of blocks of an image pickup up plane;

peak value acquiring part which acquires ~~means for acquiring~~ a peak value of brightness and peak values of color signals from video signals obtained in each of the plurality of blocks;

comparison part which makes comparison between brightness information of the mean value and the peak value;

selection part which selects either of the mean values of the color signals ~~means for selecting one of the value~~ obtained by said mean value calculating part ~~means and the value~~ or the peak values of color signals obtained by said peak value acquiring ~~means~~ part according to comparison result by said comparison part; and

white balance control part which controls ~~means for controlling~~ white balance on the basis of the values ~~value~~ selected by said selection ~~means~~ part.

Claim 2 (Currently amended):   A white balance correcting device according to claim 1, wherein said ~~selection means~~ comparison part computes ~~a ratio~~ comparison between

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a first integral value obtained by integrating mean values of video signals obtained in the plurality of blocks by said mean value calculating ~~part~~ means and a second integral value obtained by integrating peak values of video signals obtained in the plurality of blocks by said peak value acquiring ~~means~~ part, and, if the second integral value is not less than a predetermined number of times the first integral value, said selection part selects the value obtained by said peak value acquiring ~~means~~ part, and, if the second integral value is less than the predetermined number of times the first integral value, said selection part selects the value obtained by said mean value calculating ~~means~~ part.

Claim 3 (Currently amended):   A white balance correcting device according to claim 2, further comprising:

white determining part which determines ~~means for determining~~ whether values calculated by said mean value calculating ~~means~~ part and values acquired by said peak value acquiring ~~means~~ part exist within a white range,

wherein said ~~selection means~~ comparison part integrates only values which have been determined by said white determining ~~means~~ part to exist within the white range, to obtain the first integral value and the second integral value.

Claim 4 (Currently amended):   A white balance correcting device according to claim 1, wherein said peak value acquiring ~~means~~ part acquires peak values of video signals from signals that have beforehand been subjected to limitation for setting an upper limit to a signal level of an inputted video signal.

Claim 5 (Currently amended):   A white balance correcting device according to claim 1, wherein said peak value acquiring ~~means~~ part acquires peak values of video signals

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from signals that have beforehand been subjected by a low-pass filter to limitation for setting

an upper limit to a signal level of an inputted video signal.

Claim 6 (Currently amended):   A white balance correcting device for correcting

white balance of a picked-up image, comprising:

mean value calculating ~~means for calculating~~ part which calculates a mean

value of inputted video signals;

peak value acquiring ~~means for acquiring~~ part which acquires a peak value of

the inputted video signals;

comparison part which makes comparison between brightness information of

the mean value and the peak value;

selection ~~means for selecting one of the value~~ part which selects either of mean

color values obtained by said mean value calculating ~~means and the value~~ part or peak color

values obtained by said peak value acquiring ~~means~~ part according to the comparison result

by said comparison part; and

white balance control ~~means for controlling~~ part which controls white balance

on the basis of the ~~value~~ values selected by said selection ~~means~~ part.

Claim 7 (Currently amended):   A white balance correcting device according to

claim 6, wherein said ~~selection means~~ comparison part computes ~~a ratio~~ comparison between

a mean value of video signals obtained by said mean value calculating ~~means~~ part and a peak

value of video signals obtained by said peak value acquiring ~~means~~ part, and, if the peak

value is not less than a predetermined number of times the mean value, said selection part

selects the peak value, and, if the peak value is less than the predetermined number of times

the mean value, said selection part selects the mean value.

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Claim 8 (Currently amended):   A white balance correcting method for correcting white balance of a picked-up image, comprising:

a mean value calculating step of dividing an image picking-up plane into a plurality of blocks; and

calculating a mean value of <u>brightness and mean values of color signals from</u> video signals obtained in each of the plurality of blocks;

<u>acquiring</u> a peak value acquiring step of <u>brightness and peak values of color signals from</u> acquiring a peak value of video signals obtained in each of the plurality of blocks;

<u>making comparison between brightness information of the mean value and the peak value;</u>

a selection step of selecting <u>either</u> one of the <u>mean values of color signals</u> value obtained by said mean value calculating <u>or the peak values of color signals</u> step and the value obtained by said peak value acquiring step <u>according to comparison result</u>; and

<u>controlling</u> a white balance control step of controlling white balance on the <u>a</u> basis of the value <u>values</u> selected by said selection step.

Claim 9 (Currently amended):   A white balance correcting method according to claim 8, further comprising:

<u>wherein, in making comparison,</u> a computing step of computing a ratio between a first integral value obtained by integrating mean values of video signals obtained in the plurality of blocks by said mean value calculating step and a second integral value obtained by integrating peak values of video signals obtained in the plurality of blocks by said peak value acquiring step,

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wherein, if the second integral value is not less than a predetermined number of times the first integral value, the value obtained by said peak value acquiring ~~step~~ is selected by said selection ~~step~~, and, if the second integral value is less than the predetermined number of times the first integral value, the value obtained by said mean value calculating ~~step~~ is selected by said selection ~~step~~.

Claim 10 (Currently amended):   A white balance correcting method according to claim 9, further comprising:

~~a white determining step of~~ determining whether values calculated by said mean value calculating ~~step~~ and values acquired by said peak value acquiring ~~step~~ exist within a white range,

wherein only values which have been determined by said white determining ~~step~~ to exist within the white range are integrated by said selection ~~step~~ to obtain the first integral value and the second integral value.

Claim 11 (Currently amended):   A white balance correcting method according to claim 8, wherein peak values of video signals are acquired by said peak value acquiring ~~step~~ from signals that have beforehand been subjected to limitation for setting an upper limit to a signal level of an inputted video signal.

Claim 12 (Currently amended):   A white balance correcting method according to claim 8, wherein peak values of video signals are acquired by said peak value acquiring ~~step~~ from signals that have beforehand been subjected by a low-pass filter to limitation for setting an upper limit to a signal level of an inputted video signal.

Claim 13 (Currently amended):   A white balance correcting method for correcting white balance of a picked-up image, comprising:

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a mean value calculating step of calculating a mean ~~value~~ values of inputted video signals;

a peak value acquiring step of acquiring a peak ~~value~~ values of the inputted video signals;

making comparison between information of the mean value and the peak value;

a selection step of selecting either ~~one~~ of the ~~value~~ values obtained by said mean value calculating ~~step and the value~~ or the values obtained by said peak value acquiring ~~step~~ according to comparison result; and

a white balance control step of controlling white balance on the basis of the ~~value~~ values selected by said selection ~~step~~.

Claim 14 (Currently amended):   A white balance correcting method according to claim 13, ~~further comprising:~~

~~a computing step of computing a ratio between a mean value of video signals obtained by said mean value calculating step and a peak value of video signals obtained by said peak value acquiring step;~~

wherein, if the peak value is not less than a predetermined number of times the mean value in making comparison, the peak value is selected by said selection ~~step~~, and, if the peak value is less than the predetermined number of times the mean value in making comparison, the mean value is selected by said selection ~~step~~.

Claim 15 (Currently amended):   A storage medium which stores therein a program for executing a process for correcting white balance of a picked-up image, said process comprising:

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dividing an image picking-up plane into a plurality of blocks;

calculating ~~a~~ mean ~~value~~ values of video signals obtained in each of the plurality of blocks;

acquiring ~~a~~ peak ~~value~~ values of video signals obtained in each of the plurality of blocks;

making comparison between information of the mean value and the peak value;

selecting either ~~one~~ of the ~~calculated~~ mean ~~value and the acquired peak value~~ values or the peak values according to comparison result; and

controlling white balance on the basis of the selected values of the mean values and the peak values ~~one of the calculated mean value and the acquired peak value~~.

Claim 16 (Currently amended):   A storage medium according to claim 15, ~~wherein said process further comprises computing a ratio between a first integral value obtained by integrating mean values of video signals obtained in the plurality of blocks and a second integral value obtained by integrating peak values of video signals obtained in the plurality of blocks, and~~

wherein, if the second integral value is not less than a predetermined number of times the first integral in making comparison, the acquired peak value is selected, and, if the second integral value is less than the predetermined number of times the first integral value in making comparison, the calculated mean value is selected.

Claim 17 (Currently amended):   A storage medium according to claim 16, wherein said process further comprises:

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determining whether calculated mean values and acquired peak values exist

within a white range;

wherein only values which have been determined to exist within a the white

range are integrated to obtain the first integral value and the second integral value.

Claim 18 (Original): A storage medium according to claim 15, wherein peak values

of video signals are acquired from signals that have beforehand been subjected to limitation

for setting an upper limit to a signal level of an inputted video signal.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 15,

wherein peak values of video signals are acquired from signals that have beforehand been

subjected by a low-pass filter to limitation for setting an upper limit to a signal level of an

inputted video signal.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): A storage medium which stores therein a

program for executing a process for correcting white balance of a picked-up image, said

process comprising:

calculating a mean value values of inputted video signals;

acquiring a peak value values of the inputted video signals;

making comparison between brightness information of the mean value and the

peak value;

selecting either of the mean values and the peak values according to

comparison result one of the calculated mean value and the acquired peak value; and

controlling white balance on the basis of the selected one of the calculated

mean value and the acquired peak value values by said selecting.

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Claim 21 (Currently amended):   A storage medium according to claim 20,

~~wherein said process further comprises computing a ratio between a mean value of video~~

~~signals and a peak value of video signals, and~~

wherein, if the peak value is not less than a predetermined number of times the

mean value in making comparison, the acquired peak value is selected, and, if the peak value

is less than the predetermined number of times the mean value in making comparison, the

calculated mean value is selected.

Claim 22 (New):   A white balance correcting device for correcting white balance

of a picked-up image, comprising:

mean value calculating part which calculates mean values of video signals

obtained in each of a plurality of blocks of an image pickup plane;

peak value acquiring part which acquires peak values of video signals from all

of the plurality of blocks;

selection part which selects either of the values obtained by said mean value

calculating part or the values by said peak value acquiring part; and

white balance control part which controls white balance on the basis of the

value selected by said selection part.

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